

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (canceled)

21. (original) A method for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

- intercepting a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;
- identifying the recipient using information contained within the video communication request;
- notifying a third party concerning the identity of the recipient;
- prompting the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and
- forwarding the video communication request to the recipient in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- identifying the caller using information contained within the video communication request; and
- notifying the third party concerning the identity of the caller.

23. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- in response to not receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party within an established time interval, blocking the video communication request.

24. (original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
in response to receiving an indication of rejection from the third party, blocking
the video communication request.

25. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the video communication
request is intercepted by an interactive television system of the caller.

26. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the caller and third party are
each associated with an interactive television system at a different location.

27. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein the video communication
request includes live video of the caller, and wherein notifying comprises:
sending the live video of the caller to the third party.

28. (original) The method of claim 27, wherein the live video is captured by
a video camera integrated with an interactive television system of the caller.

29. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein notifying comprises:
establishing temporary two-way video communication between the third party
and the caller.

30. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein accepting comprises:

establishing two-way video communication between the recipient and the caller.

31. (original) A method for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

- intercepting a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;
- identifying the recipient using information contained within the video communication request;
- determining that the recipient is not identified within a unauthorized recipient list;
- notifying a third party concerning the identity of the recipient;
- prompting the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and
- forwarding the video communication request to the recipient in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

32. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

- identifying the caller using information contained within the video communication request; and
- notifying the third party concerning the identity of the caller.

33. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

in response to not receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party within an established time interval, blocking the video communication request.

34. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
in response to receiving an indication of rejection from the third party, blocking the video communication request.

35. (original) The method of claim 34, further comprising:
adding an indication of the recipient to an unauthorized recipient list.

36. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the caller and third party are each associated with an interactive television system at a different location.

37. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the video communication request includes live video of the caller, and wherein notifying comprises:
sending the live video of the caller to the third party.

38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein the live video is captured by a video camera integrated with an interactive television system of the caller.

39. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein notifying comprises:
establishing temporary two-way video communication between the third party and the caller.

40. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein the unauthorized recipient list is caller-specific, the method further comprising:

identifying the caller using information contained within the video communication request; and

locating an unauthorized recipient list specific to the caller.

41-50. (canceled)

52. (original) A system for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the system comprising:

an interception component configured to intercept a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;

an identification component configured to identify the recipient using information contained within the video communication request;

a notification component configured to notify a third party concerning the identity of the recipient and to prompt the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and

an authorization component configured to forward the video communication request to the recipient in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

53. (original) A system for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the system comprising:

- an interception component configured to intercept a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;
- an identification component configured to identify the recipient using information contained within the video communication request;
- an authorization component configured to determine that the recipient is not identified within a unauthorized recipient list;
- a notification component configured to notify a third party concerning the identity of the recipient and prompt the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and

wherein the authorization component is further configured to forward the video communication request to the recipient in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

54-59. (canceled)

60. (original) A system for screening video communications, the system comprising:

- means for intercepting a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;
- means for identifying the recipient using information contained within the video communication request;

means for notifying a third party concerning the identity of the recipient;
means for prompting the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and
means for forwarding the video communication request to the recipient in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

61-64. (canceled)

65. (new) A method for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

intercepting a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;
identifying the caller using information contained within the video communication request;
notifying a third party concerning the identity of the caller;
prompting the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and
accepting the video communication request in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

66. (new) The method of claim 65, further comprising:
identifying the recipient using information contained within the video communication request; and
notifying the third party concerning the identity of the recipient.

67. (new) The method of claim 65, further comprising:
in response to not receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party
within an established time interval, rejecting the video communication request.
68. (new) The method of claim 65, further comprising:
in response to receiving an indication of rejection from the third party, rejecting
the video communication request.
69. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein the video communication
request is intercepted by an interactive television system of the recipient.
70. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein the recipient and third party are
each associated with an interactive television system at a different location.
71. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein the video communication
request includes live video of the caller, and wherein notifying comprises:
sending the live video of the caller to the third party.
72. (new) The method of claim 71, wherein the live video is captured by a
video camera integrated with an interactive television system of the caller.
73. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein notifying comprises:

establishing temporary two-way video communication between the third party and the caller.

74. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein accepting comprises: establishing two-way video communication between the caller and the recipient.

75. (new) A method for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the method comprising:

intercepting a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient; identifying the caller using information contained within the video communication request; determining that the caller is not identified within a unauthorized caller list; notifying a third party concerning the identity of the caller; prompting the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and accepting the video communication request in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

76. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising: identifying the recipient using information contained within the video communication request; and notifying the third party concerning the identity of the recipient.

77. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising:
in response to not receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party
within an established time interval, rejecting the video communication request.
78. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising:
in response to receiving an indication of rejection from the third party, rejecting
the video communication request.
79. (new) The method of claim 78, further comprising:
adding an indication of the caller to an unauthorized caller list.
80. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein the recipient and third party are
each associated with an interactive television system at a different location.
81. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein the video communication
request includes live video of the caller, and wherein notifying comprises:
sending the live video of the caller to the third party.
82. (new) The method of claim 81, wherein the live video is captured by a
video camera integrated with an interactive television system of the caller.
83. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein notifying comprises:

establishing temporary two-way video communication between the third party and the caller.

84. (new) The method of claim 75, wherein the unauthorized caller list is recipient-specific, the method further comprising:

identifying the recipient using information contained within the video communication request; and

locating an unauthorized caller list specific to the recipient.

85. (new) A system for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the system comprising:

an interception component configured to intercept a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;

an identification component configured to identify the caller using information contained within the video communication request;

a notification component configured to notify a third party concerning the identity of the caller and prompt the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and

an authorization component configured to accept the video communication request in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

86. (new) A system for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the system comprising:

an interception component configured to intercept a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;

an identification component configured to identify the caller using information contained within the video communication request;

an authorization component configured to determine that the caller is not identified within a unauthorized caller list;

a notification component configured to notify a third party concerning the identity of the caller and prompt the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and

wherein the authorization component is further configured to accept the video communication request in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.

87. (new) A system for screening video communications in an interactive television system, the system comprising:

means for intercepting a video communication request sent by a caller to a recipient;

means for identifying the caller using information contained within the video communication request;

means for notifying a third party concerning the identity of the caller;

means for prompting the third party for acceptance or rejection of the video communication request; and

means for accepting the video communication request in response to receiving an indication of acceptance from the third party.